

sent by Bihar to the Central Government for relief and central assistance, but it is a fact that most parts of Bihar have been badly and adversely affected by drought and severe losses have been incurred by the State of Bihar. So, I would like to know whether some steps will be taken by the Central Government if any report is submitted by the State Government now and how much central assistance will be released by the hon. Minister in this regard. The southern part of Bihar is adversely affected by drought. So, I would also like to know whether the Central Government is contemplating to undertake its own just measurement and survey about the extent of losses which have been caused by the drought to the State.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, it is a hypothetical question and what will be in the future, I cannot predict.

Gas for Gas-based Power Stations

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*614. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H.
TOPIWALA:
SHRI DILEEPBHAI SANG-
HANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the daily requirement of gas for gas-based power stations in Gujarat;

(b) whether the gas is being supplied to these stations according to their requirement;

(c) if not, the reason therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to meet their requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (b). The total

commitment of gas for gas based power stations in Gujarat is

(MMSCMD)		
1.	GEB, Dhuvarani	— 0.42
2.	GEB, Utaran	— 0.70
3.	AEC, Vatwa	— 0.40
4.	GIPCO	— 0.70
5.	NTPC, Kawas	— 2.25
6.	NTPC, Gandhar	— 1.50
7.	GEB, Gandhar	— 1.50

Some of these projects are yet to be established. Approximately 1.6 MMSCMD of gas is being supplied at present. One of the constraints in meeting the full present requirement is the current availability of gas.

ONGC is expediting the drilling of wells, laying of pipelines, etc. to enhance the availability of gas in order to meet the requirements as per commitment.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Probably you are all aware that today and yesterday we are all on 'Agriculture'. You can discuss this issue. You can ask not only one question; but you can make a speech of 10 or 15 minutes.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. What is this going on. Why this is not being taken seriously? You are not allowed to do whatever you like. I have already told you that you can discuss the issue at the time of discussion on the Demands on agriculture. It is not the correct way of discussion.

SHRIDATTA MEGHE: It has been written in the reply that no production is undertaken in Maharashtra. (Interruptions) *

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the House.

SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: I am sorry to say that the hon. Minister has given the commitment figures. My specific question has been what is the requirement of gas for the gas-based power stations in Gujarat and not the commitment and the commitment has been over the year 7.45 and the allocation is 1.6. I would like to know the requirement of the gas power station of Gujarat and then I will ask my supplementary. This is a specific question. I want a specific answer for this. I would like to know the exact number.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: The commitments are the same as the requirements, more or less. Now I will read out what exactly has been supplied if that is what the hon. Member wants. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you know that you should not ask a question like this? You can ask Supplementary later on.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: I am omitting the million cubic meter per day which is common. The requirement of AEC Vatwa power station is 0.4. Supply is 0.3.

The requirement of GEB Utaran is 0.7 Supply is 0.25

Full supply is made of 0.50 to GEB Dhuvaran. The requirement of GIPCO is 0.70. It is being supplied. 0.60.

NTPC Gandhar and GEB Gandhar are projects on the anvil. The requirements are 1.5 each and we have committed 1.5 each.

NTPC Kawas is a project of the future. The entire question of supply of gas to the

power plant is under consideration.

SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: I have not received my answer as to what the requirement is. But anyway I will go ahead with my supplementary. NTPC's Rs. 1,500 crore gas based power project is covered where the commitment is 2.25 while the requirement is much more. How and when will the Government be able to fulfil this gap?

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: The question of supply of gas to NTPC Kawas is under the consideration of the Government the decision is pending because it involves certain issues of availability. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: Now I put my second supplementary. (Interruptions) I cannot help it because I am not getting a specific answer to my question. For my first supplementary I did not get a specific answer.

MR. SPEAKER: This is your third supplementary.

SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: Yes, But that was a sort of a clarification which I asked. I could also read out the commitment. I have the commitment with me. My second supplementary is this: projects which require gas are denied gas for some technical reason or the other. As you know, gas is available but it is not being supplied. May I know from the hon. Minister what are the reasons for not having a pipeline from Hazira to Utran covering a distance of only six Kms.? Is there any plan by when the pipeline will be laid? This is my specific question and I want a specific answer to it.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: I would like to clarify again to the hon. Member that the requirement is the same as the capacity. They have asked for the requirement on the basis of capacity. So, I had answered that question specifically.

MR. SPEAKER: Please send it to her in writing also.

SHRIS. KRISHANKUMAR: As regards Utran, the gas released as at the moment is 0.70 – 0.25 has been released earlier and 0.45 committed in June 1988. All are in million cubic metres per day which I am omitting. It was committed in June 1988. For supplying this additional gas of 0.45, a 37.5 Kms. 16 inch pipeline from Anklesvar to Utran is required to be laid which can be completed by December 1993 at a cost of about Rs. 7.5 crores. That is the position.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Government about its decision to earmark the land at Pipavav as per its assurance to supply gas for gas-based power-plants from Tapti High and what the Government is doing in this regard. What steps have been taken and when it is going to be started? Last week, on behalf of the Chief Minister a State Government delegation met the Prime Minister. What was its demand? The Utran Power Station has been completed, but gas is not being supplied to it. Crores of rupees were spent on commissioning this power station but it is not being utilized. I would like to know the time by which the Central Government will sanction the supply of gas for it.

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: The hon. Member is talking about Pipavav, I presume. The question of supply of gas for the power station located at Pipavav on the Saurashtra Coast and the modalities thereof is under active examination of the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to submit that we have been observing for many years that gas worth of crores of rupees is being burnt and there is no provision for its being utilized. In this connection, I would like to know from the Government whether it has given a thought to supply this gas for being utilized at power stations in Gujarat.

Has the Government chalked out any plan in this regard, If so, the details thereof?

[English]

SHRI KRISHAN KUMAR: I may mention to the hon. Member that the entire gas which is produced in Gujarat is used in Gujarat only. Now, we have many schemes for augmentation of production of gas in Gujarat. This is an on-going programme and will be accelerated during the Eighth Plan. I have the figures here of what the production in Gujarat will be at the end of the Eighth Plan. It is 9.2 million cubic metres per day at the end of the Eighth Plan.

As regards the second part of the question about flaring, it is true that about 20 per cent of gas produced in this country is being flared because of lack of infrastructure. We have a very comprehensive programme to achieve zero flaring in the whole country by 1994 and a World Bank aided scheme of Rs. 7,200 crores is under implementation.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that in Gujarat two power based plants have already been lying idle due to non-supply of gas. In spite of that, the National Thermal Power Corporation awarded a contract worth Rs. 1200 crores to a foreign company to start a new project in Gandhar. As regards the supply of gas, the Gandhar Plant will be completed in 1993 and the Government will supply gas to the plant in 1994 whereas two gas-based plants are already lying closed. Therefore, what was the need to invest the capital of Rs. 1200 crores, and will the hon. Minister enlighten us about the necessity and hurry to award the contract by moving earth and heaven. This is a scam involving Rs. 1200 crore. This contract was awarded to a foreign company overnight; this is very uncommon. The hon. Minister should present the factual position before the House.

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: There are several schemes for development of gas potential in Gujarat. It is an on-going process and the gas production in Gujarat will get a quantum jump when the Tapti Gas Field is developed. Gandhar-II Project is also awaiting Government sanction. If you are asking about the development process of gas in Gujarat, this is an on-going process and we are giving emphasis to it.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has not been answered correctly. I wanted to know the necessity to commission the third project while two projects were already lying idle for want of gas. When will you supply gas to these projects. This is a scam involving Rs. 1200 crores. Officers have finalized all the contracts within four days. While doing so, the indigenous companies have been ignored. The Government should tell us about the supply of the gas.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): I very well appreciate the concern of the hon. Member for supply of gas to the two power stations which he has emphasised just now. It will always be the endeavour of the Government to see that investment made for generation of power, whether in Gujarat or elsewhere, and the feed-stock that is made and committed to this, is fulfilled. We will be doing our best to see that these power stations will not suffer for want of gas.

With regard to the supply of 1.5 million cubic metres of gas per day to the NTPC, this decision was taken after a great detail of discussion with the Chief Minister of Gujarat with the Prime Minister and myself. This was done not behind the screen, not behind anybody. This decision was taken quite openly and this commitment of 1.5 million

cubic metres of gas per day to the NTPC was made. Hon. Member should know that there has not been any hanky-panky in the process of generation of power in this country. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Only two questions have been answered in half an hour.

(Interruptions)

SHR HARINATHAK: Gujarat has been facing injustice for the last five years. A sort of agitation is imminent there..... (Interruptions)..... great injustice is being done.

MR. SPEAKER: Please, sit down. This is not proper. You are all rising to ask supplementaries simultaneously. It is not at all proper. There are other questions also which should also be replied. 35 minutes have passed and we have taken up only 2 questions.

[English]

Exploration of Oil Reserves

*615. **SHRI RAM KAPSE:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are huge oil reserves in Gujarat and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in exploring the same; and

(c) the time by which the oil is likely to be explored from those reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (c). There has been no delay in exploring for oil and gas in Gujarat and West Bengal. Exploration for oil in Gujarat since 1956 has established geo-